



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health and Family Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Helene Nelson, Secretary

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For Immediate Release

**EIGHT COUNTY CONSORTIUM IN SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN RECEIVES
\$100,000 FAMILY CARE GRANT**

*Crawford, Grant, Green, Juneau, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk
Counties to Build Long Term Care Partnership*

RICHLAND CENTER— The Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services today awarded a \$100,000 grant to a eight county partnership in southwestern Wisconsin to develop a plan to expand the successful Family Care program that gives seniors and people with disabilities the choice to get long term care in their own homes and communities as an alternative to nursing home care. Last month, Governor Jim Doyle unveiled plans in his annual State of the State address to expand the Family Care program statewide within 5 years.

“Seniors and people with disabilities overwhelmingly prefer home and community care options to nursing homes when possible,” said Helene Nelson, Secretary of the Department of Health and Family Services. “Family Care has proven people can get the long-term care they need and prefer, and that this can save money for taxpayers by helping people stay healthy and independent.”

Secretary Nelson was in Richland Center today to award \$100,000 to the Southwestern Care Management Coalition, a new organization that involves eight counties and one private organization: Crawford, Grant, Green, Juneau, Iowa, Lafayette, Richland, Sauk counties, and Community Care in Action. The Coalition will provide long-term care services to the frail elderly, adults with physical disabilities, and adults with developmental disabilities.

The \$100,000 grant is the fifth in a series of grants, totaling \$1.4 million, that Governor Doyle and Secretary Nelson will award to communities around the state to lay the groundwork for expanding Family Care statewide and eliminating waiting lists for community-based long term care. While Wisconsin has been a national leader in offering community-based alternatives to nursing home care, about 11,500 people are on waitlists for community care statewide.

There are currently a total of 437 people in the eight-county area on a waiting list for community care.

Family Care is a successful pilot program in five counties in Wisconsin. A recent evaluation of Family Care found that it saved an average of \$452 per person per month in total Medical Assistance expenditures in the four non-Milwaukee counties during 2003 and 2004. It did so by helping people stay healthy and more independent in their homes and communities. Family Care also saved money in Milwaukee.

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